LIBERATION NEWS SERVICE

#555 September 22, 1973

Packet #555
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IF YOU ARE MISSING A PAGE OR GET A BADLY PRINTED GRAPHIC, LET US KNOW AND WE'LL SEND YOU ANOTHER SOON

EX-UMW PRESIDENT TONY BOYLE INDICTED FOR MURDER OF HIS RIVAL, JOSEPH YABLONSKI

WASHINGTON, DCC. (LNS)--Almost four years after the murders of insurgent United Mine Workers of American (UMWA) presidential candidate Joseph "Jock" Yablonski, his wife and daughter, ex-UMWA president W.A. "Tony" Boyle was finally indicted on September 6 for masterminding his chief opponent's murder.

William J. Turnblazer, UMWA District 19 president, admitted his own role in planning the killings and testified that Boyle "initiated and instigated a plan to assassinate" Yablonski after he had announced he would oppose Boyle for the union presidency.

Boyle's arrest September 6 on a federal charge of conspiring to deprive Yablonski of his civil rights is part of a well-coordinated plan between state and federal officials to try Boyle for murder. By arresting him first on the federal charge, it will be possible to transfer Boyle to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where a Federal Grand Jury has indicted him. Upon his arrival in Pennsylvania, scheduled for late September, state officials will then take him into custody and arraign him on three counts of first degree murder. This strategy will prevent Boyle from waging the long legal battle to delay his extradition from Washington to Pennsylvania that would have occured had he only been indicted on state murder charges.

Special prosecutor Richard Sprague, who has won 8 convictions or guilty pleas so far in the Yablonski case, will reportedly ask that the ex-union president be jailed without bail on the murder charges. His trial will probably be in early 1974. Boyle is presently free on $50,000 bond after his preliminary hearing on the federal charges in Washington on September 6.

The chain of events leading up to the Yablonski killings actually began on May 28, 1969 when Jock Yablonski announced that he would oppose Tony Boyle for the UMWA presidency. Yablonski stated several times during the campaign that he felt that his life was in danger, but that the risk was necessary to try to make the union responsible to its members.

According to Turnblazer, and Albert Pass, another District 19 official already convicted for his part in the murders, Boyle said on June 23, 1969 that Yablonski should be killed. Immediately, the plan began to take shape. Included was an elaborate kickback scheme aimed at setting up a murder fund of $20,000 which was officially labeled as "organizing expenses" for District 19.

But as the campaign got hot the murder plot was called off. "If Yablonski is killed now," Pass told fellow conspirators William Prater and Silous Huddleston, "people will think the union killed him to keep him from winning the election."

With a massive vote fraud later documented in the courts, Yablonski lost the December 9, 1969 election by an 80,000 to 46,000 vote. Afterwards the reform candidate announced that he would go to the Labor Department to force a new, fair election. With that threat, the murder plan was back on, and on New Year's Eve, December 31, 1969, Claude Vealey, Aubran Marin and Paul Gilly broke into the Yablonski home and carried out the murders.

Vealey, Martin and Gilly were arrested three weeks later. In April, 1972, Annette Gilly, Paul's wife who helped to plan the murders, pleaded guilty and shortly after that her father, Silous Huddleston, a UMW local president from LaFollette, Tennessee, also admitted his role. William Prater, a former District 19 representative was convicted of murder in March, 1973, and confessed two weeks later. Albert Pass, former District 19 secretary-treasurer, was convicted last June.

Throughout the case, Boyle, known for his high-living and sweetheart contracts with coal operators, has staunchly maintained his innocence. Labeling those who charged his involvement in the murders as participating in a "communist conspiracy," he even swore on a bible publicly that he had nothing to do with the killings.

Much has happened to the United Mineworkers Union since the Yablonski deaths in 1969. An insurgent group of rank and file miners calling themselves Miners for Democracy (MFD) formed the day of the Yablonskis' funeral and vowed to win control of the union. They started their own paper -- the Miner's Voice -- in opposition to the Boyle-controled UMW Journal, and continued Yablonski's reform work in the union, both in the coal fields and the courtroom.

Finally, on May 1, 1972, a Federal court ruled that the Yablonski-Boyle election be overturned because of illegal use of union funds to advance Boyle's candidacy, and that a new election be held. One month later the MFD held a convention and chose Arnold Miller, Mike Trbovich, and Harry Patrick to run against Boyle and his associates.

On December 22, 1972 the new rank and file leaders took over the UMW, voted in by a landslide.

The new union leadership promised full cooperation with the Yablonski investigation and opened UMW files to the prosecutors so that Boyle lost his power to aid others involved in the plot and cover-up.

As for Tony Boyle, who could be sent to jail in November for his unrelated criminal conviction in the political contributions case, it appears his past troubles are minor compared to what is to come.

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(Thanks to Don Stillman and the United Mine Workers Journal for the information in this story.)

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THE SPIRIT OF IMPERIALISM

(From a well-known Protestant hymn by Bishop Reginald Heber, 1783-1826)

From Greenland's icy mountains,
From India's coral strand,
Where Africa's sunny fountains
Roll down their golden sand,
From many an ancient river,
From many a palmy plain,
They call us to deliver
Their land from error's chain.

HOW THE U.S. PAYS FOR THIEU'S POLICE

by Michael Klare

Pacific News Service/LIBERATION News Service

[*Editor's Note: Mike Klare is a staff member of the North American Congress on Latin America, and author of War Without End: American Planning for the Next Vietnams.*]

WASHINGTON, D.C. (PNS/LNS)--U.S. support to South Vietnam's police and prison systems is now covert, but has increased since the peace agreement prohibiting such support was signed. When separate conduit accounts are added up, it turns out that the Nixon Administration will spend $20 million on South Vietnam's police in the current fiscal year, a 50% increase over last year.

The United States has been subsidizing the South Vietnamese police force since 1954. Last year alone, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Public Safety Program spent $13.6 million to expand South Vietnam's prison system, converted the Vietnamese National Police into a tough paramilitary force, and furnished 200 U.S. police advisors.

Under the peace agreement signed last January, the United States pledged to remove all military and paramilitary advisors from Vietnam within 60 days, and to cease its involvement in that country's internal political affairs. Clearly, these provisions required the termination of the Public Safety Program. Several weeks later, the State Department announced that USAID had terminated its assistance to the National Police.

But several U.S. Senators have subsequently discovered that the old activities are being continued under different names. Senator Edward Kennedy, who investigated the aid situation last June, reported in a Senate speech that, "'public safety' is now called 'technical support', 'public administration', and 'public works'". Kennedy cited millions of dollars going to the South Vietnamese police under new headings ("presumably more is buried elsewhere," he warned) and charged that the Administration had instituted a "coverup" of continued U.S. support to President Nguyen Van Thieu's police apparatus.

A careful examination of USAID documents, plus information garnered by inquisitive Congressmen, produces this picture of U.S. aid to Thieu's police:

--Under "USAID Technical Support," the United States will spend $869,000 to train 200 South Vietnamese police technicians in "Computer system management and technology."

--Under "Public Works General Support," USAID will contribute $1.5 million to Vietnam's Combined Telecommunications Directorate, which is run by and for the police.

--Under "Public Administration General Support", $256,000 will be spent to fly top Saigon police to Washington, D.C. for advanced training at the International Police Academy. The Academy, featured in the Costa-Gravas movie "State of Siege," has also trained policemen from Brazil, Chile, Uruguay, and other countries ruled by military juntas.

--Under the Military Assistance (Service-Funded) program, the Department of Defense will contribute $10.6 million to the National Police for "replacement" of worn-out equipment. Although the Pentagon insists it is adhering to the "piece-by-piece" replacement restriction of the 1973 peace agreement, the current budget of $10.6 million is double the amounts spent in any of the past three years, when there was no such restriction.

--Finally, under the "American Aid Chapter" of the Vietnamese budget, the United States will supply $3.3 million worth of Vietnamese piasters for support of the police and prison system. These piasters are obtained through sales of appliances and other luxury goods to the Saigon middle class at discount prices--which are subsidized with U.S. tax funds through the Commodity Import Program.

When the $3.8 million remaining from last year's appropriations is added to the balance sheet, the final figure is $20.4 million--a large amount for a program that has "terminated."

One apparent aim of these programs is to continue Operation Phoenix, the CIA-led effort to "neutralize" the NLF underground in South Vietnam. Thieu made additional use of the program to liquidate his opposition among Buddhists, students and other non-communist groups. As of May, 1972, when the Pentagon stopped supplying figures, 27,000 political activists had been killed by Phoenix operatives. An estimated 200,000 political prisoners are still being held without trial.

Computer systems used in the Phoenix program were set up by U.S. contractors under the Defense Department's Civil Operations and Rural Development (CORDS) program. The training of Saigon police technicians in "computer system management" will enable them to take over operation of CORDS data banks holding political information on some 12 million South Vietnamese citizens.

With the Administration under pressure to withdraw the thousands of U.S. military technicians still remaining in South Vietnam, it has become necessary to rush the training of Vietnamese technicians to operate the vast police computer facilities. This delicate task is being performed by a Los Angeles-based firm, the Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC), under a multi-million dollar contract with the Department of Defense. CSC formerly held contracts with the CORDS program.

CSC maintains an office in Saigon staffed by 56 American computer specialists. Presumably, this staff includes some ex-Operation Phoenix advisors formerly on the CORDS payroll. A CSC advertisement in the Saigon Post of March 24, 1973 specified: "DATA REDUCTION CLERK--Position available immediately for one American. Secret Clearance required. Prefer applicant with previous Vietnam experience."

In a telephone interview with this correspondent, spokemen for CSC refused to provide details on its Vietnam work. The company later told Time Magazine that, "We have no knowledge of what [the South Vietnamese] are doing with the technical training we are giving them." Senator Kennedy and other legislators maintain that there is little

mystery about what the South Vietnamese police are doing.

Says Senator Alan Cranston (D. Calif.), "AID is continuing to bolster a cruel and repressive police apparatus in South Vietnam. A vast surveillance system is in effect, aided by U.S. communications equipment and personnel. Police torture and inhuman jail conditions, including the notorious [U.S. financed] tiger cages, await those who criticize the government's policies."

A number of U.S. Senators will apply pressure for the U.S. to stop aiding Thieu's police. When the Foreign Aid bill comes up for approval, an amendment will be proposed cutting off all funds for the Saigon police.

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(See graphics.)

500 COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEES STRIKE: WIN 6.5 PERCENT WAGE INCREASE

NEW YORK (LNS)--Members of Local 1199 of the Drug and Hospital Union at Columbia University in New York voted on September 17 to accept a two year contract reached after 15 hours of negotiations with a federal mediator. The settlement ended a week long strike by 1199 that affected university employees in the libraries, dining halls, computer center, mail room and the controllers office.

The union struck September 10 when Columbia refused to negotiate further, offering a 5.5 percent wage increase. 1199 refused the 5.5 offer, holding out for a 7.5 percent increase or $12 a week (which ever is greater), saying "we want a settlement by which we can live."

1199 is a progressive union of over 40,000 workers in New York City. Most of its members are hospital workers; over 50 percent of the membership is Third World and over 50 percent are women. In 1968 the union came to Columbia and organized 500 of the university's 5,000 employees. About another 1,000 university employees are organized into other unions and the rest are not unionized.

From the beginning of negotiations it appeared that Columbia's main aim was not to reach a settlement but to weaken 1199's footing at the university. 1199 members on campus speculated that Columbia feared that a significant wage increase for 1199 workers would stampede other university workers into one of the unions. As a result, Columbia entered negotiations armed with the non-compromising 5.5 percent offer and a flat refusal to settle the dispute through binding arbitration or mediation, though 1199 expressed total willingness to submit to either.

Negotiations began May first and the contract expired on June 30, but 1199 members continued working and continued negotiations "in good faith." Throughout the talks Columbia never said they could not afford giving a salary increase, a charge they knew they could never defend. Rather, Columbia president Dr. William J. McGill stated flatly that "Columbia employees are well paid in terms of the jobs they do."

In response to McGill's statement, 1199 said, "We are outraged that a $75,000 a year executive presumes to call $130 a week employees 'well paid.'"

Columbia's intentions to engage in union busting were thinly veiled throughout. At one of the last negotiating sessions before the strike according to an 1199 spokeman, the chief Columbia negotiator, James McKeaver, entered the session prominently displaying his cuff links on which were engraved the words "Bull" (on one) and "Shit" (on the other). And Columbias overall strategy was perhaps best revealed when McGill addressed the American Board of Professional Psychiatry in Montreal in late August.

According to the Columbia Spectator, the University newspaper, McGill stated that "The bargaining may be protracted over such a long period of time that emotional force drains away from the participants. I have found that physical exhaustion is a good antidote for outrage. Negotiate and negotiate until everyone is dead tired and then the moment is at hand for a solution."

On September 14, several hundred 1199 members and their supporters occupied the personnel office at Columbia, demanding that the University reopen negotiations with them. Chanting "5.5 won't keep us alive," and "we want a new contract," the people in the building finally forced McKeaver and Vice President of Personnel Donald Miller to come to the occupied office.

Miller claimed that other 1199 contracts in the city which have won 7.5% increases should not affect these negotiations since they are mostly with hospital workers and "we draw from a different labor pool." He offered no answer when it was pointed out that the majority of 1199 members are third world women, as were the majority of the striking Columbia workers.

Billie Barkley, a spokeswoman for the 1199 negotiating committee, explained the need for the building occupation. "We have tried every way to negotiate," she said, "but the University has refused to seriously consider our demands." Columbia finally agreed to meet with the federal mediator and reach the subsequent agreement when the strike and the union busting started to get publicity.

Roy Hollander, an 1199 spokesman, termed the contract "a decent victory for our 500 members at Columbia."

Though the University minimized the effect of the strike as "an inconvenience," it had a broader effect than that. Student dining halls were inoperative, forcing the University to figure ways to reimburse those students who had already paid for their board. Most truckers making deliveries to Columbia refused to cross the picket lines. Columbia tried to avoid this by scheduling deliveries for hours when pickets were not present.

The School of Social Work closed during the strike when the 60-member faculty and the 625-member student body voted overwhelmingly to support the strike. It was reported that only 4 professors were holding classes and that attendance ranged from zero to five students.

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"SPECIAL TRAINING PLATOON" UNCOVERED IN W. GERMANY; "NOT PUNISHMENT...IT IS 24 HOURS A DAY TRAINING"

LIBERATION News Service

BAD KREUZNACH, W. Germany (LNS)--On September 13, 2nd Lt. Dale Morgan, stationed in Bad Kreuznach, West Germany, revealed the existence of an Army "Special Training Platoon" designed for suspected drug users to instill "fear of being caught and punished for illegal acts."

The program, started during the summer in a battalion of the Eighth Infantry Division, is "primarily for drug abusers," but also aimed at soldiers described as "candidates for elimination or court-martial who might be salvaged," a division spokesman admitted.

Added to this ambiguous definition of eligibility for the Special Training Platoon (STP) is the actual selection procedure itself. A GI's commanding officer makes the selection and the GI may appeal to no one except that officer. In effect, the soldier is charged, tried and convicted to the STP.

"In the past, rehabilitation was a persuasive approach," writes Ltc. Dale Brudvig in his notes on the Special Training Platoon--one of three documents revealed by Morgan. "The 4-69th Armor has developed an old-time attitude of discipline, control and hard work. It is not punishment, nor restriction, nor guards. It is 24 hours a day training."

However, some might find the Army's distinction between punishment and training a little obscure.

A GI must give up all personal property for the entire length of his "rehabilitation"--usually two months. Among other things, civilian clothes, stereos, passes and free time are all forbidden. As the Army put it, the program "has within it discipline, orderliness. It has an active environment to make one fully appreciate the privileges taken for granted until lost."

Seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day, the GIs "train," their strict program calling for 8 hours of sleep, 3 hours of mealtime, 8 hours of training and 5 hours of work and "details."

The Platoon must always move in formation and the Platoon sergeant must "maintain strict control and accountability of all Platoon members at all times." According to one directive, for instance, "A morning formation shave and evening shower formation will be held and supervised by the Platoon sergeant. The Platoon will be marched to the latrine and shower facilities and supervised."

And in addition to the ban on personal possessions, "comic books or other similar items" are not permitted, making the restriction so conveniently vague as to cover all reading materials.

"The drug problem cannot be met with a permissive lenient approach. If drugs are to be attacked, then the pleasure which inspires their use must be met with corresponding displeasure and pain," stated Brudvig in further notes on the program dated July 18, 1973.

"In the vernacular of the drugger, the taking of drugs must be made to be a 'bummer,' a 'hassle,' 'a bad trip.'"

The army claimed 21 graduates of its "rehabilitation" program before it announced cancelation of the project, soon after Lt. Morgan blew the whistle on September 13. At that point, an NBC film crew was also attempting to film soldiers in the involuntary program.

In a memo dated as recently as September 5, however, the Eighth Infantry's commanding officer, Major General Frederic E. Davision, had indicated the Army's interest in extending the program throughout the entire 13,000 man division.

The Special Training Platoon is not the only repressive plan the Army Command in West Germany has begun and then hastily scrapped when it was revealed to the public. In late July, they initiated the Counterdissidence Program within the Eighth Infantry to enable all major subordinate commanders to "recognize, report and combat dissidence."

Another disenchanted soldier, this time Military Intelligence agent John McDougal, revealed the counterdissidence plans which included electronic surveillance and harassment of both GI's and civilian supporters.

Explaining his revelation about the Special Training Platoons in a letter to the Army's official newspaper, Stars and Stripes, on September 12, Lt. Morgan said, "I took an oath of allegiance to uphold the Constitution...It is time the American people be made to realize the injustices within this military system."

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CHINA'S 24th ANNIVERSARY TO BE CELEBRATED IN CITIES AROUND U.S.

NEW YORK (LNS)-- October 1st marks the 24th anniversary of the People's Republic of China. To mark the occasion, groups in cities all over the country will host a variety of activities, including movies, speeches, entertainment and workshops.

In New York, the celebration will be held on September 30, and will feature a presentation by Dr. Arthur Galston, a noted biologist from Yale. Galston recently returned from China where he worked on the Marco Polo Bridge People's Commune.

In addition to Dr. Galston's presentation, there will be a photo exhibit, a musical program and a children's chorus.

Similar programs are planned for Chicago, Iowa City, Detroit, the Trenton-Princeton area, Philadelphia, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

People interested in attending the celebrations should contact the U.S.-China Friendship Association in their area, or call the New York office at (212) 255-4727.

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CHICANO SCHOOL RANSACKED
ONE WOMAN KILLED IN POLICE ASSAULT

SANTA FE, N.M. (LNS)--Escuela Tonantzín, a Chicano school located just outside of Santa Fe, New Mexico, was ransacked and one woman killed, as a result of a "shoot-out" with police in front of the school on September 3.

According to police, officer Manuel Moya chased a car involved in a hit-and-run accident from Santa Fe to the Escuela in Agua Fria Village. Police claim that Moya was shot while arresting the driver of the car, possibly by a man who ran from the car into the school building. Within minutes, about 80 city, county and state police were on the scene as well as FBI agents and an army helicopter.

It was about six o'clock in the evening and a birthday party for one of the children was going on inside the school.

Reporters from Albuquerque's alternative newspaper, Seer's Catalogue, visiting Tonantzín a few days later, asid that no one knows who fired the first shot. Police claimed at first that about 15 people with high caliber rifles were firing from the tower of the school. Later, however, they reported that the only guns they had found at the school (2 small caliber rifles and 2 handguns) were buried in the ground outdoors.

"How or why, would people in the tower run through heavy fire to bury their guns?" asks El Comite de Los Barrios, the radical Chicano group that runs the school, in a statement after the incident. "And if there really were people shooting from the tower, why are there no bullet holes in it from police fire--most of the holes being in the office walls?"

In an initial attempt to stop the shooting, one man inside the school raised a white T-shirt tied to a pole, said school spokesman Roberto Garcia. The shirt was soon riddled with bullets. Later, also inside the school, Linda Montoya and Johnny Morphine were shot while holding white flags with their hands in the air. Montoya died three days later. The only other police casualty was officer Robert Holland whom police conceded had been hit by their own buckshot.

Once the shooting had subsided, police occupied the building and denied access to El Comite members as well as to a reporter from El Grito del Norte, a nearby Chicano paper. Anglo press, however, were admitted. During their occupation, which lasted until September 5, police destroyed murals, art and musical equipment, furniture, and children's craft projects. They also dumped food and materials all over the school's floor and rummaged through and confiscated school records. Several days after the "shoot-out", Seer's reporters said that tear gas was still thick in some of the schoolrooms.

Outside the building they destroyed a goat pen, allowing the goats to run loose, slashed tires and emptied a fire extinguisher all over the inside of a schoolbus.

On September 4, eleven men and one woman were arraigned on charges of aggravated assault with intent to commit a felony. One of those charged was Thomas Espinoza, a bystander preparing to leave the scene when he was arrested. Two others, Samuel Leybe and John Valdez were arrested driving by the school the next morning. All were held on $50,000 bonds except the woman whose bond was set at $10,000. Most are now out on bail.

La Escuela y Colegio Tonantzín, as the school is officially called, was established primarily for Chicano children who have dropped out or been "pushed out" of public schools. It features classes in drama and theatre, dance, arts and crafts, Spanish history, and drug abuse education as well as standard subjects. Approximately 80 students attended the school's first session this summer and many more were enrolled for the fall.

A former convent, Tonantzín was given to El Comite last June by Arch-bishop James Peter Davis of the Santa Fe diocese. The Archbishop's decision has apparently been unpopular with some Agua Fria townspeople who were angry because they had paid for another building from the church while the school got its building for free. There has also been some concern because the community well is located on school land.

But the majority of the villagers signed a petition last spring stating their approval for the school. And the man who led a September 5 meeting of people opposed to the school was Gilbert Mier--brother of the Deputy Police Chief of Santa Fe, Fernando Mier, who refused to let people into Tonantzín after the incident.

District Attorney Joe Castellano has actively pledged his support to help oust El Comite from the building. Castellano has long been "out to get" members of the group ever since the days when some of them had been members of La Gente, an organization active in the Santa Fe barrio. The DA was clearly out to discredit the school when he tried to say that Linda Montoya died of a drug overdose rather than of bullet wounds.

"All the facts point to a set-up in which the police caused some incident that would allow them to attack the school with their guns blazing--while other officials tried to make the Escuela look bad," said El Comite.

El Comite is trying to raise defense money as well as new supplies for the school which will open on schedule for the fall semester. Contribute what you can to: Escuela Tonantzín Defense Fund, c/o 537 West San Francisco, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501 or call (505) 983-8830.

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(Thanks to Tevina Benedict and Seer's Catalogue for the information in this story.)

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TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS: MANY OF YOU HAVE RESPONDED TO UR PLEAS FOR MONEY THIS MONTH, AND WE THANK YOU VERY MUCH. HOWEVER, THERE ARE STILL MANY MORE OF YOU WHO HAVE NOT SENT ANYTHING FOR SUCH A LONG TIME. PLEASE SEND US SOMETHING NOW. THANKS

more...

US CARRIER MIDWAY "HOMEPORTED" IN JAPAN:
"A PRIMARY MEANS OF POLITICAL INFLUENCE AND PRESSURE"

LIBERATION News Service

"It's ironic, but the world is more dependant on the sea today than ever before. These less developed.. under-developed nations...whatever euphemism you want to use...if you want to influence one of them, you don't fly over it, you don't land on it, you put a ship off its coast...

"Five thousand people floating into a harbor tells you the U.S. is as interested as hell in the area. It says 'power and interest. We have the power to help you or kill you, you bastard."

-- Norm Polma, U.S. editor of Jane's Fighting Ships, the international authority on naval vessels.

"After Vietnam? That's when we'll be able to provide real influence in other areas. You can expect to see the Seventh Fleet ranging all over the Indian Ocean and western Pacific, supporting friends and convincing neutrals."

-- Captain De La Mater, Special Assistant to Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, Chief of Naval Operations.

SAN FRANCISCO (LNS) -- On September 11, the attack aircraft carrier USS Midway left San Francisco Bay for its new permanent home base in Yokosuka, Japan, 32 miles south of Tokyo. The Midway is the first American carrier ever "homeported" outside this country, and its transfer is an indication of how the United States military plans to conduct itself in Asia -- and around the world -- in the wake of Vietnam.

The attack aircraft carrier is the largest weapon in the U.S. arsenal. (The Midway weighs 51,000 tons and carries 75 planes and a crew of 45,000 men.) It serves primarily as a floating airfield, from which to launch or threaten massive bombing as far as 600 miles inland. A carrier can move in and out of coastal regions without risking take-overs by unfriendly governments or armies, a risk inherent in land-bound airfields.

There are other risks however. Writing in the Far Eastern Economic Review, Tom Englehart said, "The carrier is an extremely vulnerable wartime weapon. One anti-ship missile could knock it out of the water, demolishing millions of dollars worth of equipment and a small city of men. However, as a peacetime weapon -- in the Pacific and Indian Oceans -- it is becoming a prime means of political influence and pressure."

No one is more aware of this than Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, Chief of Naval Operations. "As the number of our land-based forces deployed overseas declines, we will need to keep some evidence of power in sight. This will at the same time sustain our allies confidence in us and demonstrate by our presence both our capability and our determination to protect our commerce and our sources of strategic materials from any interruption."

Homeported in Yokosuka, the Midway will be much closer, and proportionally more intimidating, to Korea, the Philippines, Indochina and Indonesia than it would be in its old port in San Francisco. At the same time the Midway's presence in Japan will no doubt be a key influence in favor of the continued rearmament of the Japanese navy (the "Maritime Self-Defense Force").

Overseas homeporting is also an economic maneuver, a way of running the navy "on the cheap." Labor and maintenance will be cheaper overseas. Through the Sumitomo Corporation, non-union workers are already being hired in Yokosuka to service the Midway. And the Midway will have fewer trans-Pacific trips to make.

The move abroad enables the Navy to keep the Midway and its crew removed from public scrutiny and protest here in the States, but it brings them right into massive protests in Japan. The people of Yokosuka and nearby cities are not at all happy with the prospect of an American occupation in their port, especially because the Midway is equipped to carry nuclear weapons. Since Janary 1st, two weeks after the transfer of the Midway was quietly announced, there have been more than fifty demonstrations of protest in Japan.

Protest on board the Midway took the form of a petition to Congress demanding a review of the ship's unauthorized deployment abroad and an official inquiry into the facilities available in Japan. The crew, like the people of Yokosuka, feel that the city is not equipped to handle the sudden influx of Americans. The Captain quickly transferred the men involved off the ship in an attempt to minimize dissent on board. But dissent seems inevitable; according to the Navy's own poll of the crew, only 15% were willing to volunteer for the move to Japan, which has been publicized as an all-volunteer venture.

A petition to Congress is more threatening to the Navy than one might think. Captain De La Mater, Special Assistant to Admiral Zumwalt, said, "Probably our basic problem is with the State Department and Congress who see [homeporting] as a further expansion overseas." Homeporting was conceived of as a way of making political and military commitments to American satellite nations by stationing U.S. forces abroad without first getting Congressional approval.

Retired General Gene LaRoque, head of the Center for Defense Information, says, "I see the navy moving more and more into [the Indian-Pacific Oceans] area under any excuse possible. And homeporting is one way to do it. We'll slide into Singapore and elsewhere by homeporting."

At present, Japan and Singapore (strategically located on Japan's oil-supply route from the Middle East) are the only Asian countries with port facilities adequate to handle a carrier and its attending boats. But, Tom Englehart explained in his article, plans for upgrading other Asian ports are already in the works. Indonesia, Guam and Micronesia are already being considered as alternative or additional homeports for American carriers. "The homeporting of the Midway is just the beginning," says the Carrier Project of the American Friends Service Committee. They add Greece, Australia, the Philippines and South Africa to the list of possible homeports.

The Carrier Project, which is trying to publicize the Midway's move, and SOS (Stop our Ship), an Alameda, CA - based group organizing support for dissenting GI's on board the carrier, feel the political significance of the Midway's transfer has been underestimated.

For more information, write to: The Carrier Project, c/o AFSC, 2160 Lake Street, San Francisco, CA 94121, or call (415) 752-7766. SOS: (415) 865-1511.

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(Thanks to the Carrier Project and Freedom News for this information.)

JUDGE REFUSES HUNG JURY: CARLOS FELICIANO FOUND GUILTY IN JURY "COMPROMISE" DECISION

"I am a father as well as a Puerto Rican. I want no charity from anyone. I want my country to be free, my kids to live in a clean, healthy place, to have a good education and to be able to eat well. I want to get what my work earns, not what someone wants to pay me. I want to live as a human being, as a Puerto Rican. These are the goals of my life. I will die fighting for them."

--Carlos Feliciano

NEW YORK (LNS)--On September 19, after deliberating 16 hours, a jury of nine men and three women found Carlos Feliciano, the 44 year old Puerto Rican independista, innocent of charges of attempted arson and reckless endangerment in connection with a bomb that didn't go off at a GE building in February, 1970. However, they found him guilty of possession of a bomb, an "explosive substance," a blasting cap, and a pistol. He could get up to 7 years in jail on those charges.

The jury had come back several times and after 12 hours of deliberation announced to Judge Arnold Fraiman that they were hopelessly deadlocked. But he refused to rule the trial a hung jury and sent them back again. William Kunstler, Carlos' defense attorney, said he though that the jurors--split between those who wanted to acquitt him on all charges and those who wanted to convict him on all charges--resolved the conflict with the "compromise" decision.

Kunstler said that he will move to have the two convictions thrown out on the grounds that they are inconsistent with the acquittals on the attempted arson and reckless endangerment charges.

"The fact is, I am an innocent man, 100 percent," said Feliciano after the trial. "If I am guilty of anything, it is because I am a Puerto Rican and I am in a struggle to free my land from American imperialism."

Carlos had been involved in the Puerto Rican independence movement from his youth in the town of Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. Because of his membership in the militant Nationalist Party, he was arrested in a round-up of hundreds of Nationalist Party members in 1950 while uprisings were taking place in different parts of the island.

When he was finally released from prison in 1957, he came to the United States, married, and became politically inactive while working two jobs to support his growing family. Then, on May 16, 1970, as he was getting out of his car to go into a sporting goods store, Carlos was arrested by two plainclothes detectives, who claimed they found a bomb in a loaf of bread in the back of his car. Later the same day, they raided his house and claimed they found a blasting cap and a pistol.

By the end of the day, Assistant District Attorney John Fine said Carlos was a member of MIRA, an underground Puerto Rican organization, and was responsible for 41 bombings all over New York City.

Prosecutor Fine has had quite a bit of experience with political cases. In December, 1971 he tried and succeeded in convicting a young Puerto Rican, Edwardo "Pancho" Cruz, on explosives charges. Cruz was also charged with possessing an "unidentified explosive substance" which Fine carried into the courtroom in a suitcase marked "Danger, Explosives." The defense had an explosives expert hammer and light the substance with no results.

Though Fine tried publicly to blame nearly every unsolved bombing in New York City on Feliciano, when it came down to official charges, there were only 2 attempted bombings--one in the Bronx and the other in Manhattan. But on the grounds that he was a terrorist bomber, he was held in jail on $175,000 bail for 17 months. Finally it was lowered to $50,000 which his defense committee succeeded in raising.

Over a year ago, Carlos was completely acquitted of charges in the Bronx after a young policeman, Philip Zimmerman, revealed that Fine first offered him a promotion, and then threatened him with perjury charges, to get him to corroborate the story of Andrew Guitierrez, a plainclothesman and the state's star witness.

At a pre-trial hearing in July for the Manhattan trial, it was revealed that several months before Carlos' arrest there had been meetings between the Presidential Special Security Service, the FBI, the Criminal Investigation Corp. (The Puerto Rican FBI), and the New York City "Red Squad" in which Carlos and several other Puerto Rican political activists were discussed. Six men were assigned to watch Carlos for a few months before his arrest.

Judge Fraiman refused to allow Zimmerman's testimony or any of the evidence of "conspiracy on the part of the government," as Carlos and his supporters call it, before the jury. He also ruled that the fact that Guiterrez was suspended from the force for taking a $15,000 bribe from a drug pusher was irrelevant and immaterial.

The trial was fairly short. The prosecution put on a fingerprint expert, a bomb expert and a number of cops, claiming that a piece of paper found in the GE building near the bomb had Carlos' fingerprint on it. They never explained why, with the extensive federal and state computer systems, it took them three months to identify this fingerprint.

The defense put on a number of witnesses who talked about Carlos as a person and presented some background on Puerto Rico to try to explain to the jury why the government would want to put together a case against Carlos. A doctor from the Lincoln Hospital Detoxification Center talked about Carlos' work there as a counselor and how he helped many addicts kick the habit. Alfredo Lopez of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party gave a short history of Puerto Rico.

Carlos Feliciano's case has become famous in Puerto Rican communities all across the country. The Committee To Defend Carlos Feliciano is made up of a coalition of Puerto Rican groups in New York, "for in reality," the Committee says, "behind the case of Carlos Feliciano is the case of Puerto Rico."

The defense will file an appeal on October 12, the day Carlos is to be sentenced.

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[Note to editors: See graphics for photo to go with this story. Also, see back packet #516 for more information on the GPA.]

WOODCUTTERS STRIKE CRIPPLES LARGE SOUTHERN PAPER COMPANIES: PRODUCTION DOWN 80%

EASTABUCHIE, Miss. (LNS)--More than 2,000 woodcutters went out on strike September 14 against several giant paper and pulpwood companies in Southern Alabama and Mississippi. The strike was called by the Gulfcoast Pulpwood Association (GPA) two weeks after the companies failed to reppond to a list of demands made by the woodcutters on August 24.

A quarter of a million people in the deep south make their living as woodcutters. As recently as two years ago, they were earning barely $2000 a year for 12-13 hours of work a day, 5 days a week.

In the fall of 1971, when Masonite--one of the largest woodyards in Mississippi--lowered woodcutters' wages by increasing the amount of wood required for a load, the woodcutters struck. After 3 months, the Masonite strikers, 65-70% of whom were black, forced Masonite to recapitulate,

Encouraged by this success the association of woodcutters and haulers, the GPA, has continued organizing and now includes woodcutters in Louisiana and Florida. The present strike has affected 16 mills, including those of International, Scott, St. Regis, Gulf States and Masonite.

"Cutting wood is one of the most dangerous things that a man ever done in his life," says Fred Walters, and old-time woodcutter who was elected president of GPA last year. "Just one little mistake and that's all. He can lose a leg or and arm, he can even lose his head."

A woodcutter must buy his own truck, saws, and other tools and safety equipment. Says Walters, "I've got this truck I bought in 1964 and I've been hauling wood on this truck all this time. I paid $3400 for it when I bought it and I checked about a month ago and I still owe $1700 on the truck. So there is something the companies are doing to the people. Eight years and I still owe $1700!

The GPA's demands include the establishment of a standard measure for wood cut (now, measurements vary from woodyard to woodyard making cheating by dealers--who buy wood from the cutters and then sell it to the paper companies--widespread); a rise in the price of pulpwood; accident insurance for woodcutters provided by the companies; and a meeting with representatives from the paper companies and the GPA to bring about the changes the woodcutters must have if they are to continue to haul wood.

One method the paper companies have used to try to keep the cutters from organizing was dividing the black workers from the whites. Now the majority of workers are black . At one time, black cutters weren't allowed to have their own trucks. During the 1971 strike, Masonite began to allow the black workers to have their own trucks and saws, hoping to lure them into breaking the picket lines. However, this tactic failed, and black and white workers are solidly together in GPA.

Since the conception of the GPA, the paper companies have maintained that it is illegal for the woodcutters to form a union since they are independent contractors, that is, they do not sell their wood directly to the companies and buy their own equipment. Since the woodcutters are not technically "employees," argues the paper industry, they are not eligible for insurance, minimum wages and workingmen's compensation.

Scott and International--the two largest paper companies in the world--have filed an injunction against the GPA to prevent them from picketing and holding meetings. And they have even charged the GPA with price-fixing and violation of the antitrust laws in order to prevent the association from acting as a bargaining agent for the woodcutters.

Whether or not the courts uphold the paper companies' charges or not, Fred Walters feels that they will have to recognize the GPA and negotiate soon. Already the strike has cut production by 80%. Also, the rainy season is fast approaching, a time when almost no wood can be cut. Usually the companies rely on reserves but this year there are almost no reserves. Two International plants may have to close down immediately for lack of wood.

"We don't need pickets," said Walters, "There are no scabs-- there's no one who'll cut the wood."

* * *

The woodcutters have no strike fund and could use some help. Please send any contributions you can to GPA, PO Box 53, Eastabuchie, Miss.29436. For more information about the strike, write or call them at (601) 582-5184 or 477-8133.

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CATALOG OF FILMS AVAILABLE FROM MASS. GROUP

SOMERVILLE, MASS. (LNS)-A catalog of almost one hundred films is available from Community Films. They offer films about Africa, Latin America, women, prisons, different minority groups, among other topics.

Some of the films include, A Luta Continua, 79 Springs of Ho Chi Minh, Mothers and Daughters, Memories of Underdevelopment, Yo Soy Chicano, and Winter Soldier.

The films range in length from 1 and 1/2 minutes to four hours, and range in price from $5 to over $100.

The catalog containing the film titles, short synopsises, and prices are available from Community Films, 22 Cleveland St., Somerville, Mass. 02143. (617) 776-7080.

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HOT NEWS???
call lns at
(212) 749-2200

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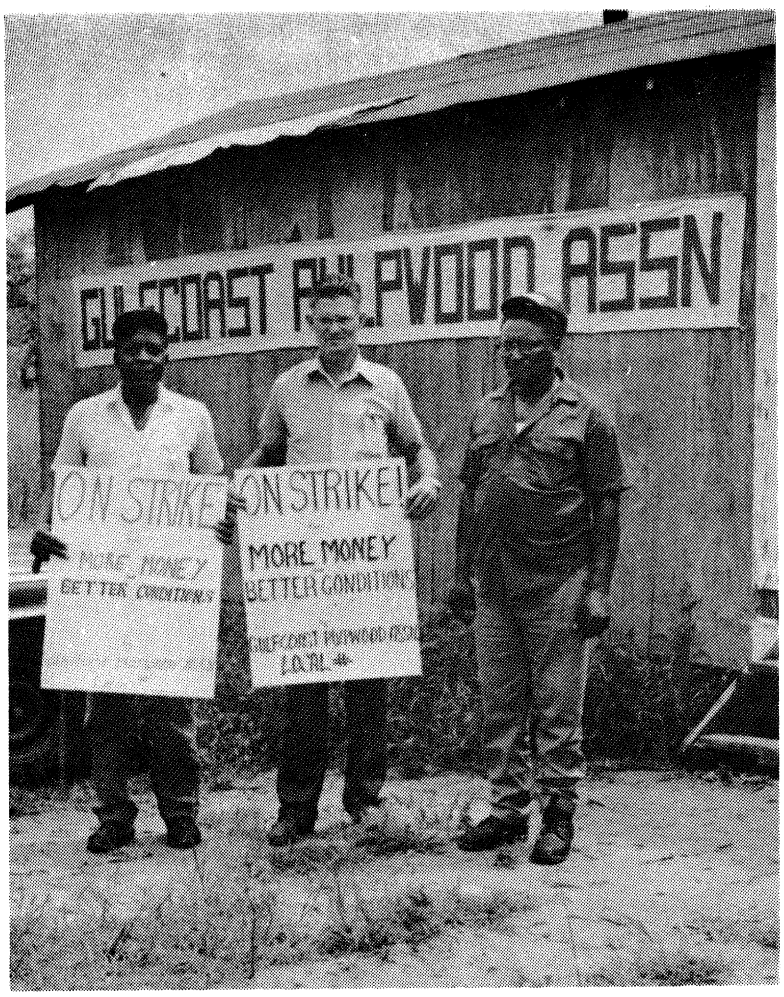
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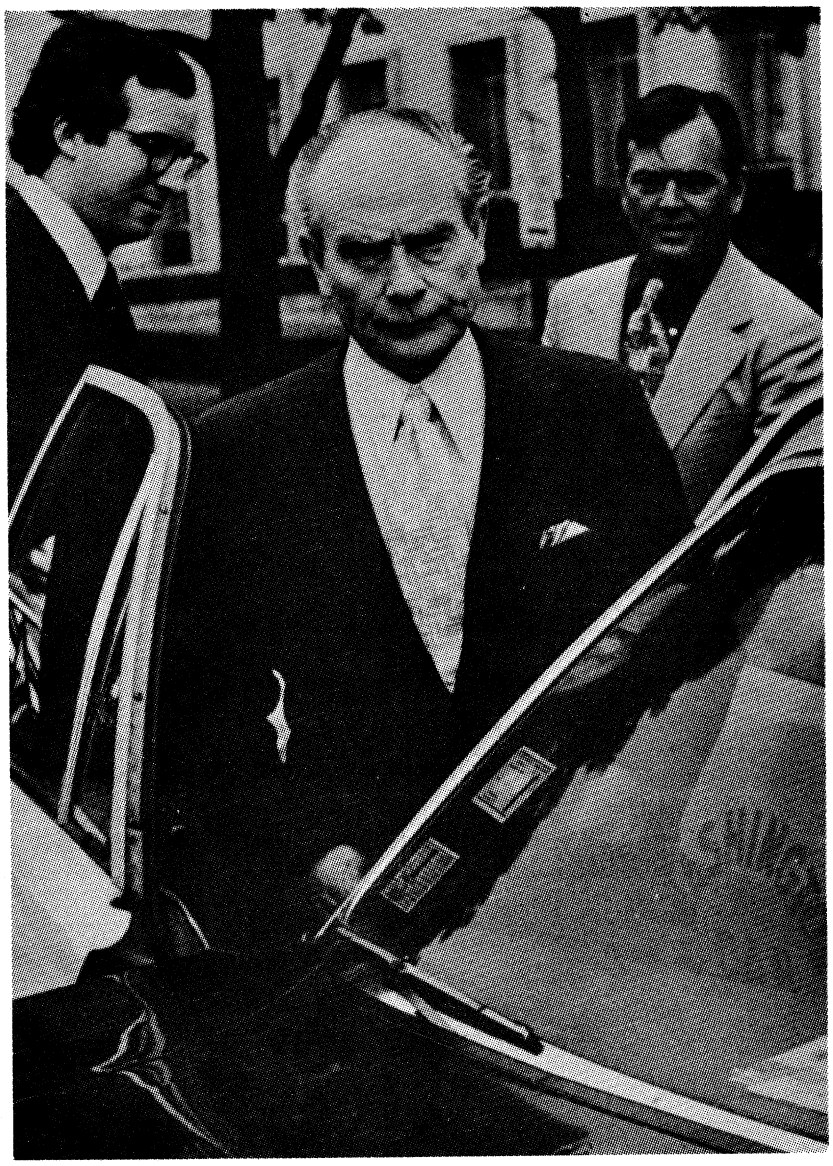


TOP RIGHT: On September 14, several hundred striking 1199 union members and supporters occupied the personell office at Columbia, demanding that the University reopen negotiations with them. The people in the building finally forced chief negotiator McKeaver (seated, looking at floor) and Vice-President of Personell Miller (seated, looking glum) to come to the occupied office. See story on page 3.
CREDIT: LNS.

TOP LEFT: This photo was taken on the first day of the woodcutters strike at G.P.A. headquarters in Eastabuchie, Mississippi, as woodcutters prepared to set up picket lines at woodyards. See story on page 8.
CREDIT: Ken Lawrence/SCEF/LNS.

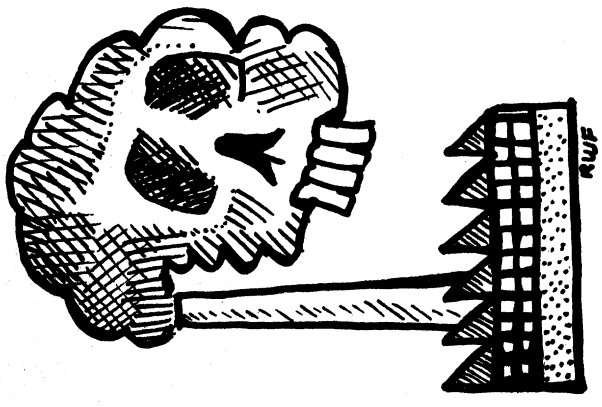
BOTTOM RIGHT: Tony Boyle (center), former president of the United Mine Workers Union and his lawyer (right), Plato Cacheris, after federal conspiracy charges were filed against him in the case of the murder of Joseph Yablonski. See story on page 1.
CREDIT: Earl Dotter/ UNITED MINE WORKERS JOURNAL/LNS.

BOTTOM LEFT: Bullet holes in the windows of Escuela Tonantzín, a Chicano school outside Santa Fe, New Mexico, were the result of a "shoot-out" with the police. See story on page 5.
CREDIT: SEER'S CATALOGUE/LNS.

***NEWS ITEM:** President Nixon vetoed the minimum wage bill which would set base pay at $2 an hour, claiming "it would increase unemployment" and "boost inflation."*

CHILE COUP

"Shortage? WHAT short-t-t-t . . . Oh! you mean that terrible ol' FUEL shortage!"



TOP LEFT CREDIT: DAILY WORLD/LNS.

MIDDLE RIGHT CREDIT: UNITED MINE WORKERS JOURNAL/
LNS.

BOTTOM RIGHT CREDIT: CARILLON/LNS.

BOTTOM LEFT: This graphic was made with a photo of a tank patroling the streets of Santiago in support of the new military junta in Chile. See stories on page one of packets #554 and 553.
CREDIT: THE MILITANT/LNS.

the end.